



**LAKE TAHOE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 15, 2008
(Rescheduled from January 8, 2008 Due to Weather Conditions)**

EDUCATION CENTER BOARD ROOM
1021 Al Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, CA

7:00 PM - REGULAR CLOSED SESSION
6:00 PM - REGULAR OPEN SESSION

Board Members	Staff Members Present		Guests Present	
Angela Swanson Sue Novasel Wendy David Michael Doyle Larry Green Student Rep: Becca Kushner	Dr. James Tarwater Beth Delacour Angie Keil Ivone Larson Carla Zezula Julie Humes	Bob Grant Jim Watson Sue O'Connor Steve Hayward Christina Grubbs Michelle Reilly	Melanie McHugh Kelsie DiGrande Lauri Kemper Doug Smith Debbie McIntyre Lenette Mapes Allyson Tabor	Jeanie Cerceo Riana Cerceo Jana DiGrande Kae Reed Annie, Sam, Gareth Harris Larry Reilly

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Open Session of the regular meeting of the Lake Tahoe Unified School District Board of Education was called to order by Sue Novasel at 6:02 p.m. at the Education Center Board Room.

Item 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Swanson made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted; Mrs. David seconded the motion. Ayes: David/Swanson/Novasel/Green/Doyle. Noes: None

Item 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Six students from Tahoe Valley's Preschool Class led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 4. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC

Jeanie Cerceo advised the Board that there is some controversy at STHS regarding the name of the "pep" spirit group at games. The name "Blue Zoo" is no longer allowed and they are considering other names, such as "Viking Nation".

Item 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, AND REPORTS

A. Report by Mark Romagnolo on the Tahoe Valley Preschool

Mr. Romagnolo introduced six students, a teacher, and parent. He said that there are sixteen children in the class with two teachers and they are busy studying language and math, and development of social and emotional skills. He hopes that the program can expand in the future.

B. Report and Presentation of Certificates by Mary Burns, RN, on the IZ Xtreme Campaign

School nurse, Mary Burns, along with Allyson Tabor and Lenette Mapes from the Health Department, reported on the huge success of the first IZ Xtreme Campaign – a the full menu of recommended pre-teen vaccines – together with the new nasal spray vaccine for the flu – which was given away at South Tahoe Middle School, during school hours, at no cost to their families or the District. The vaccines were acquired free under a federal program and the County and School District nurses and volunteers administered the program. Our District had the highest vaccination rate in the County, with 337 students receiving at least one vaccine. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Mary Burns, RN, Marta Ubias, Julie Humes, Joy Rothschild, Annie Harris, and Dr. Steve Bannar for their assistance in ensuring the success of the program. The Health Department hopes to make this an annual event for sixth and seventh graders.

C. Report on South Tahoe High School's Xtreme Green High School Environmental Group

Melanie McHugh, supported by her fellow students Riana Cerceo and Kelsie DiGrande, told the Board about this environmental group at the High School that is dedicated to promoting environmental awareness and responsible consumerism at school and in the community. Some of their projects included a campus clean-up, planting flowers, and placing recycling bins in classrooms. They want to visit Alder Creek Middle School in Truckee, which is a "green" school that uses solar power, to gather some eco-design and environment-enhancing tips. They invited the Board to join them at a date to be determined in the future.

Item 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, AND REPORTS (continued)

D. Report by South Tahoe High School Student Representative

Becca Kushner said that school got back to a good start, despite the snow day and power outages. Finals will be held this week and a new term will start on January 22nd. Students will have completed four classes and will begin a new set of four classes for the second term. A blood drive was held, but they only got 74 units because of poor publicity. They will hold one more before the end of the year.

E. Board of Education Report

Larry Green enjoyed the Choir performance and his tour of the ROP Classes at the High School. **Michael Doyle** also enjoyed the Choir performance and he found the District Master Plan Committee (DMPC) informative. **Angela Swanson** also enjoyed the Choir and the DMPC meeting and the 25 members supporting the District. She is impressed with the creative thinking of the architects. She lamented the Governor's mid-year cuts, but the good news is that everyone who applied for the CTE grants are being funded. **Wendy David** invited everyone to the "Freedom Writer – Manuel Scott" public presentation on January 24th at STMS and is pleased that several community foundations stepped up to bring this speaker to our schools and community. She attended the Gang Task Force meeting at STMS, which was attended by a broad range of people talking about ways to keep kids safe and involved. **Sue Novasel** said that she is very impressed with the new supercomputer that Dave Norton acquired for STHS.

F. Superintendent Report

Dr. Tarwater reported that there is a Special Board Meeting on Friday, facilitated by consultant, Dr. Lori Garcy, to help the Board understand the importance of effective governance. He said that he had to call the first snow day on January 8th to get the schools cleared up and ready to open. The Master Plan Committee convened last week, and will meet another four times over the next month or so to come up with a recommendation for the Board on how we can finance facility upgrades at our schools. We have approximately \$15 million available to us for various projects, including a new CTE (Career Technical Education) building at STHS. Staff development is going across the District with the hiring of the consulting firm, Springboard Schools.

Item 6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

A. Approve Recommendation on the 4 x 4 Block Schedule at South Tahoe High School

Ivone Larson explained that this is the second year that the schedule has been in place at STHS. In December, she brought a recommendation to continue the 4 x 4 for another year, while she forms a task force to look at other options for the 2009/10 school year. The data on test results for one year indicates there were no significant changes in performance. Mrs. Larson said that STHS still ranks higher than the County and the State in test scores, despite the fact that we have high EL (English Learner) and Free & Reduced Lunch populations. Mrs. Larson said that she has seen some wonderful things from the schedule and some not so wonderful, but there is no perfect schedule that will fit the needs of all students – from AP (Advanced Placement), to Special Ed., to English Learners, to ROP (Regional Occupational Program), to CTE. There were about two years of research that went into deciding on this schedule in the first place, and a sudden switch back at this time of the year would be disastrous.

Public Comments: **Doug Smith**, asked the Board to delay a decision for at least thirty days. He said a thorough process has not been established to evaluate the schedule. Lauri Kemper said that surveys were not designed properly, there are no clear "triggers" to identify when they will abolish the schedule, promises were made on electives that were not followed through, and more students are spending less time at school. **Bob Grant** said that the schedule was put in place as a preemptive measure and it was not meant to be a magic schedule to make every test score go up – it was to offer more support to help all students achieve success. **Jeanie Kaufman** said that the survey questions were slanted to make it come out so that everyone likes the schedule. She said that the "work-to-rule thing" that happened with the teachers was awful and that teachers did not receive enough training to implement the schedule properly. **Harold Singer** got the impression that this was an experiment and it bothers him that the district went into it with a two-year commitment, knowing that there was only going to be one year of data. He requested a postponement of a decision. **Michelle Reilly** said that they are too far into the process to change the schedule for the next school year and asked the Board to make a decision as soon as possible. **Jana DiGrande** agrees that a decision needs to be made but criteria need to be established to properly evaluate the schedule. She is tired of excuses and changes affecting her children.

Each Board member, after carefully considering the data they were given and the public comments, discussed their thoughts on the issue – concurring with the speakers on most points, but also with school officials who testified that a decision needs to be made imminently for the sake of the students. They agreed that no schedule will solve all problems. They've talked with students and teachers and school personnel at San Dieguito High School in San Diego, which is a highly successful 4 x 4 school with similar demographics. **Mrs. David made a motion to continue the 4 x 4 schedule for another year, but an Oversight Committee needs to be formed, with established critical components, to come back to the Board in October 2008 with a solid recommendation on the 2009/10 schedule; Dr. Green seconded the motion. Ayes: David/Swanson/Novasel/Green/Doyle. Noes: None**

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Item 6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION (continued)

B. Approve New Textbook for English IV: Critical Reading and Writing Course of Study

Ivone Larson explained that a new textbook is being recommended by STHS for the English Reading and Writing Course of Study: "*The Essay Connection*", Houghton Mifflin © 2006

Dr. Green made a motion to approve the new textbook; Dr. Doyle seconded the motion. Ayes:

David/Swanson/Novasel/Green/Doyle. Noes: None

Item 7. CONSENT AGENDA

The Board approved the following consent items:

Agreements to provide legal services with David Girard and with Trujillo & Vinson, LLP; donations; and Minutes of the December 4, 2007 Special Meeting and the December 11, 2007 Regular Meeting. **Ms. Swanson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted; Dr. Green seconded the motion. Ayes: Swanson/David/Novasel/ Doyle/Green. Noes: None.**

Items 8-10. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION/ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION/ RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Mrs. Novasel announced the items to be discussed in closed session. She adjourned the regular meeting at 7:38 p.m. for a recess and entered closed session at 8:11 p.m. Mrs. Novasel reconvened the meeting to open session at 10:02 p.m.

Item 11. ACTION ON ITEMS FROM CLOSED SESSION (Government Code Section 54954.5)

A. Personnel Order No. 2007/08-11 (Government Code 54957)

- i. Hire:* substitute cafeteria assistant and substitute teacher.
- ii. Accept Promotion:* administrative assistants and senior accounting assistant.
- iii. Accept Leave of Absence:* head coach – boys golf.
- iv. Accept Resignation:* instructional assistants.
- v. Accept Retirement:* teachers and speech pathologist.

Mrs. David made a motion to approve the Personnel Order as submitted; Ms. Swanson seconded the motion.

Ayes: David/Novasel/Doyle/Swanson/Green. Noes: None

B. Discipline (Education Code 35146 and Government Code 54950)

- i. Recommendation for Extension of Suspension No. 2007/08-07*
The student was in possession of a pellet gun at school. **The suspension is extended until a hearing can be held.**
- ii. Recommendation for Extension of Suspension No. 2007/08-08*
The student was in possession of a pellet gun at school. **The suspension is extended until a hearing can be held.**

Ms. Swanson made a motion to approve the recommendations as submitted; Dr. Doyle seconded the motion.

Ayes: David/Novasel/Doyle/Swanson/Green. Noes: None

C. Conference with Labor Negotiators (Government Code 54957.6)

Dr. James Tarwater, Superintendent, and Beth Delacour, Director of Human Resources, conference with the Board regarding negotiations with South Tahoe Educators Association (STEA and California School Employees Association (CSEA). **No Action was taken.**

D. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release (Government Code 54954.5)

No action was taken.

Item 12. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

DR. JAMES TARWATER, SUPERINTENDENT AND SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION